

Rare Animals of Louisiana



Cooper's Hawk

Accipiter cooperii

Rarity Rank: S2B,S3N/G5

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure

Identification:

- Medium sized hawk. Males are about 39 cm in length, whereas females are about 45 cm
- Males often brighter than females
- Dark blue-gray crown with lighter nape
- White tipped, rounded tail with bands of brown and blue-gray
- Back and upper wing coverts are brown or blue-gray
- Adults with robin's red barring on breast; immature are streaked with brown



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Habitat:

- Deciduous, mixed and evergreen forests as well as deciduous areas of riparian habitat
- Can be tolerant of human disturbance in suburban areas

Food habits:

- Avian prey up to size of crow, but commonly more dove-sized
- Mammalian including mice and squirrels

Range:

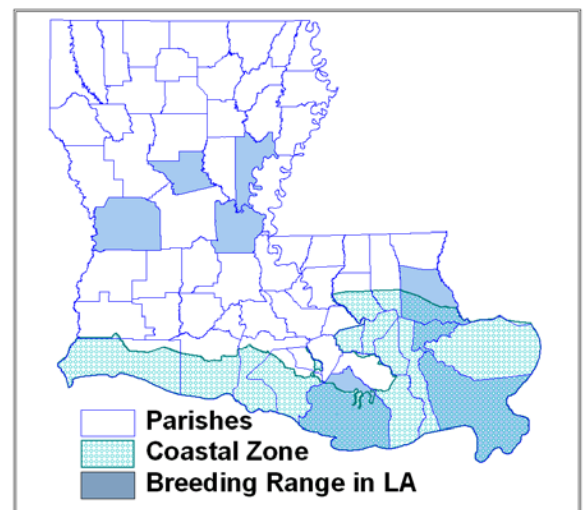
- Breeding Range: United States, Southern Canada, and Northern Mexico
- Winters mostly in the U.S. and Mexico; also Costa Rica and Panama

Reproduction:

- Monogamous
- Nests as early as March
- Nest is generally made with sticks and lined with bark flakes
- Eggs are elliptical or sub-elliptical shaped, have a dirty white tinge and occasionally spotted
- Incubation, brooding and feeding mainly accomplished by the female

Threats:

- Habituation to humans and human impacts such as shooting or application of pesticides
- Predation by Great Horned Owls
- Timber harvests alter habitats and nesting areas



Range based on occurrences in Natural Heritage database

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Beneficial Management Practices:

- Prevent pollution and control or limit pesticide use
- Control habitat destruction by scheduling timber harvests during non-breeding seasons
- Limit human disturbance of nesting sites

LA River Basins:

Pearl, Pontchartrain, Mississippi, Barataria, Terrebonne, Vermilion-Teche, Calcasieu, Sabine, Red River



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

References:

- NatureServe. 2006. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 6.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: June 12, 2007).
- Rosenfield, R. N. and J. Bielefeldt. 1993. Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*). In The Birds of North America, No. 75 (A. Poole and F. Gill, Eds.). Philadelphia: The Academy of Natural Sciences; Washington, D.C.: The American Ornithologists' Union.